



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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**MEMBER**  
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ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

**January 31, 2020**

#### **Transportation Committee**

#### **Testimony in Opposition to LCO #373: "An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure."**

Chairman Lemar, Chairman Leone, Ranking Member Devlin, Ranking Member Martin and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to **LCO #373 "An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure."**

This proposal calls for an electronic toll gantry to be placed on I-395 in Plainfield, in my district. I am opposed to implementing tolls due to the impact it will have on my constituents. Trucks will attempt to avoid these tolls by going through secondary roads. This will only cause additional damage to our infrastructure. That financial burden will fall on our towns. It will also increase congestion on our roads and will make local routes less safe. This is already happening in my district, in Voluntown, where trucks utilize Rt. 165 and Rt. 138 to bypass the I-95 Rhode Island Truck Toll. This increased traffic has become a major safety issue for residents.

Another reason I oppose this proposal is the ongoing litigation in Rhode Island where trucking companies are challenging the state's trucks-only toll law. If the case does not go in Rhode Island's favor, the state may choose to expand tolls to all motor vehicles. If Connecticut's current plan is enacted, the expansion to all passenger cars would seem imminent.

We must keep in mind that a toll on trucks is a toll on us all! Trucks deliver all kinds of good across the state – fuel, food, basic household supplies, etc. The financial burden will be passed on to all consumers and residents. This could further impact Connecticut businesses that have to add on yet another cost of taxes/regulations to the products they provide and put them at even a greater disadvantage over businesses in other states. We need to prioritize spending and not pass another tax/fee onto our residents that are already burdened with taxes and regulations.

Most of us in the legislature agree – our bridges, highways, and rail system are in urgent need of repair, and delay will only turn the issue of transportation into a matter of public safety. However, that does not mean tolls are the only solution available. I urge my colleagues on the Transportation Committee to oppose this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian I. Lanoue". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Respectfully submitted," text.

State Rep Brian Lanoue